UNITED STATE DISTRICT OF	es districticourt Massachusetts	AMOUNT & JSBUED Y-Z LOCAL RULE 4.1 WAIVER FORM
SHAW'S SUPERMARKETS, INC., Plaintiff, v.	2004 JUN -4 P 2: 89 Civil Action U.S. EXSTRUCT GOURT DISTRICT OF MASS.	MCF ISSUED_
UNITED FOOD AND COMMERCIA WORKERS UNION, LOCAL 791, AFL-CIO, Defendant.	04CI	1910 DPW

COMPLAINT OF SHAW'S SUPERMARKETS, INC.

Introduction

Pursuant to Section 301 of the Labor Management Relations Act, 29 U.S.C. § 185(a), Plaintiff Shaw's Supermarkets, Inc. ("Shaw's") seeks a stay of American Arbitration Association Matter No. 11 300 02475 03 to the extent Defendant United Food and Commercial Workers Union, Local 791, AFL-CIO ("Local 791") seeks to use the arbitral forum to obtain recognition as the collective bargaining representative of employees working at Shaw's Mansfield, Massachusetts facility. The primary basis for Shaw's requested stay is that the issue of Local 791's status is purely a representation issue under the National Labor Relations Act and the commencement of the arbitration on that issue could result in a bar to the issue of Local 791's representation status that is currently pending before the National Labor Relations Board.

The Parties

1. Plaintiff Shaw's is a Massachusetts corporation with a principal place of business at 750 West Center, West Bridgewater, Massachusetts. Shaw's operates retail grocery stores throughout the Northeast, including within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

- 2. Shaw's is an "employer" within the meaning of Section 2(2) and 2(7) of the Labor Management Relations Act of 1947, as amended, 29 U.S.C. § 152(2).
- 3. Defendant Local 791 has a principal place of business at 55 Norfolk Avenue, South Easton, Massachusetts. Local 791 is the collective bargaining representative of a number of Shaw's employees in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Maine.
- 4. Local 791 is a "labor organization" within the meaning of Section 2(5) of the Labor Management Relations Act of 1947, as amended, 29 U.S.C. § 152(5).
- 5. This is an action arising out of a contract between an employer and a labor organization representing employees in an industry affecting commerce, as defined in the Labor Management Relations Act, 29 U.S.C. §§ 141, et seq.
- 6. Jurisdiction is conferred by Section 301 of the Labor Management Relations Act of 1947, as amended, 29 U.S.C. § 185(a).
- 7. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(a)(2) and 29 U.S.C. § 185(a).

Factual Background

- 8. Shaw's and Local 791 are parties to a collective bargaining agreement in effect since July 28, 2001 that will expire on July 31, 2004 (the "CBA").
- 9. The CBA treats full time and part time employees differently as to wages, hours and benefits.
- 10. As part of the CBA, the parties sought to provide how Local 791 would have access to the employees hired at new Shaw's stores for the purposes of soliciting new employees for union membership. The CBA contains the following language on this issue:

8. New Stores:

When the Employer opens new stores within the geographic area described in Article 1, the Employer will allow access within the store prior to opening during the hiring process, will remain neutral, and will recognize the Union and apply the contract when a majority of Employees have authorized the Union to represent them.

- 11. In the summer of 2003, Shaw's prepared to open a new Shaw's store in Mansfield, Massachusetts.
- 12. During the hiring process for the Mansfield store, Local 791 sought to organize the store's employees. Pursuant to its obligations under the CBA's "New Stores" provision, Shaw's allowed Local 791 access and remained neutral during the hiring process.
- 13. Before Shaw's completed the hiring process at the Mansfield store, Local 791 declared that it had attained majority status and requested Shaw's recognize it as the collective bargaining representative for the employees at the Mansfield store and apply the existing CBA to those employees.
- Local 791 for several reasons. First, Shaw's had been informed that Local 791 violated employees' Section 7 rights while soliciting the employees. Second, the number of submitted authorization cards did not constitute a majority of the expected employees at the store. Third, Local 791 obtained authorizations from, and sought to represent, employees who worked as supervisors, as defined by the National Labor Relations Act or who were not employees of the store. In the end, Shaw's concluded that it had a good faith belief that Local 791 failed to establish that it represented an uncoerced majority of the Mansfield store's employees. Accordingly, Shaw's refused to voluntarily recognize Local 791.

- 15. On August 22, 2003, Shaw's opened the Mansfield store as a non-union store.
- 16. Instead of filing an unfair labor practice charge to challenge Shaw's good faith refusal to recognize under the National Labor Relations Act, Local 791 submitted two grievances regarding the Mansfield store. The grievances contained two primary allegations: (A) Shaw's violated the CBA by refusing to recognize Local 791 as the collective bargaining representative for employees at the Mansfield store and (B) Shaw's violated the CBA by failing to allow Local 791 access and by failing to remain neutral.
- 17. On October 23, 2003, Local 791 submitted a notice of its intent to submit the grievances to arbitration under the CBA's grievance procedures. Over Shaw's objections, an arbitrator, Professor Frank Sander, was named and the arbitration is scheduled to commence on June 11, 2004. Local 791 requests that the arbitrator find that it represents a majority of the employees and order Shaw's to recognize Local 791 and apply the existing CBA to those employees.
- 18. The parties' CBA contains the following procedures for the arbitration of disputes between the parties:

ARBITRATION PROCEDURES

- Section 1. Arbitration is the fourth and final step of the grievance procedures. If a grievance is not settled at Step 3, the Union may submit the grievance to arbitration by written notice to the American Arbitration Association and the Company's Labor Relations Department within thirty (30) calendar days of received of the Step 3 answer.
- Section 2. A request for a panel of arbitrators will be sent to the American Arbitration Association. The parties will select an arbitrator from the American Arbitration Association panel by alternatively striking a name from the list until only one (1) name remains. The parties will then notify the American Arbitration Association of the selected arbitrator. If the final remaining arbitrator is unacceptable to either party, one (1) additional panel may be jointly requested, from which an arbitrator must be selected.

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- Section 3. The authority of the arbitrator is expressly limited to deciding if a violation of the Agreement has occurred. The arbitrator shall have no authority to add to, detract from, or in any way change or alter any of the terms and conditions of this Agreement. The arbitrator shall give due consideration to the rights of management and shall make no ruling that unduly abridges or restricts management rights or improperly substitutes the arbitrator's judgment for management's.
- Section 4. The arbitrator's decision will be final and binding on all parties provided the decision is made within the authority delegated to the arbitrator by the parties. The Union and the Company shall each bear one-half (1/2) of the fee and expenses of the arbitrator. All other expenses will be borne by the party incurring them. The Company will not be responsible for the wages of any Employees for time lost from work due to preparing for or participating in arbitration proceedings.
- Section 5. The parties agree that neither will use the services of legal counsel during arbitration proceedings without first having given advance notice to the other of such intent. The parties further agree not to withhold relevant information from the other during the preliminary grievance steps in a good faith effort to resolve disagreements without arbitration.

(Emphasis added.)

- 19. Since Local 791 continued to claim it represented a majority of the employees at the Mansfield store and continued to demand recognition after the hiring process was complete, on April 21, 2004, Shaw's filed a Petition with the Regional Director of Region 1 of the National Labor Relations Board ("NLRB") requesting that the NLRB hold an secret ballot election pursuant to Section 9 of the National Labor Relations Act, 29 U.S.C. § 159 (the "Petition").
- 20. Under Section 9, an employer has the right to request a Board-run election when a union requests recognition.
- 21. Under the NLRB's election procedures, the Regional Director is supposed to hold a hearing in which the parties present evidence and argument on disputed issues. Although no hearing was held, Shaw's informed the Regional Director that there were issues concerning the

appropriate unit (i.e., which employees should be entitled to vote); the sufficiency and adequacy of the union's showing of interest; and, the union's misconduct during the hiring process.

- 22. On April 30, 2004, the Regional Director of Region 1 administratively dismissed the Petition, without holding a hearing, on the grounds that the parties' New Stores provision constituted a waiver of Shaw's Section 9(a) rights.
- 23. On May 13, 2004, Shaw's filed a timely Request for Review of the Regional Directors' decision with the National Labor Relations Board. As allowed under the NLRB's rules, Local 791 filed its Opposition to the Request for Review. The matter is currently fully brief and it is pending with the Board.
- 24. If the Board determines the New Stores provision is <u>not</u> a waiver of Shaw's Section 9(a) rights, the matter will proceed to a Board-run election and the arbitration of the representation issues would be moot.
- 25. Shaw's requested that the arbitrator, Professor Frank Sander, stay the arbitration proceedings (at least the representation issues) pending a decision by the NLRB regarding Shaw's petition for a secret ballot election. On May 27, 2004, Professor Sander refused Shaw's request.

Count I (Section 301 of the LMRA)

- 26. Shaw's realleges and incorporates by reference the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 25 herein.
- 27. Local 791 seeks to force Shaw's to arbitrate pure representation issues in the arbitral forum even though the CBA's procedures are expressly limited to contractual issues. In order for the arbitrator to decide the central issue of Local 791's majority status, the arbitrator would be required to interpret and apply the policies and regulations of the National Labor

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Relations Act concerning the appropriate bargaining unit, statutory supervisors, Local 791's violation of employees' Section 7 rights, the issue of representative complement of employees, and other core representation issues.

28. Local 791's conduct, in seeking to force arbitration of representation issues when the parties' CBA is limited to matters of contract violates 29 U.S.C. § 185.

Count II (Declaratory Judgment)

- 29. Shaw's realleges and incorporates by reference the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 28 herein.
- 30. Pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 185, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201-2202, and Rule 57 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Shaw's seeks a declaratory judgment concerning the arbitrability of Local 791's majority status, or, in the alternative, concerning whether the arbitration proceedings should be stayed pending the National Labor Relations Board's decision on Shaw's Petition.
- 31. There is an actual controversy between Shaw's and Local 791 about whether the Union can force Shaw's to arbitrate the issue of Local 791's claim of majority status at the Mansfield store, and the related representation issues.
- 32. This Court may enter a declaratory judgment because the dispute between Shaw's and Local 791 is definite and concrete, affecting the parties' legal interest with sufficient immediacy as to justify relief, and is ripe for adjudication.
- 33. There is a substantial likelihood that the dispute will continually affect the parties' legal interest. Indeed, if Shaw's is forced to proceed with the arbitration and ultimately forced to recognize Local 791 at the Mansfield store, the legal rights of parties and the employees at the Mansfield store will be dramatically impacted.

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34. The rights of the parties and uncertainties of this actual controversy may be resolved by entry of a declaratory judgment.

Count III (Injunction)

- 35. Shaw's realleges and incorporates by reference the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 34 herein.
 - 36. Injunctive relieve is proper under 29 U.S.C. § 185.
- 37. Injunctive relief is necessary to protect Shaw's rights to pursue its legal remedies with the National Labor Relations Board, to prevent potentially conflicting results in two forums, and to avoid an enormous waste of a potentially moot proceeding.
- 38. Injunctive relief is also necessary to protect the employees at the Mansfield store who would be forced to be subject to the existing collective bargaining agreement and forced to pay dues and/or fees to Local 791 without having the opportunity to participate in an election pursuant to the National Labor Relations Act.
 - 39. Injunctive relief is in the public interest.
- 40. Without injunctive relief, Shaw's will suffer substantial and irreparable harm if the Union is permitted to force Shaw's to participate in an arbitration of Local 791's majority status at the Mansfield store.
- 41. Injunctive relief will preserve the status quo pending the NLRB's rendering of a decision on the Petition.
 - 42. Local 791 will suffer no harm if injunctive relief is granted.

WHEREFORE, Shaw's respectfully requests that this Court:

1. Determine the rights and duties of Shaw's and Local 791 under the parties' CBA, as they relate to the grievances regarding the Mansfield store;

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SJS 44 (Rev. 3∕99)	CIVIL	COVER	SHEET		**		
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Moon, Moss P.O. Box 72		2-7250	Warren H. Pyle, Esq (617) 367-7200 Pyle, Rome, Lichten & Ehrenberg, P.C. 18 Tremont St., Ste. 500, Boston, MA 02108				
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

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Workplace Guidance and Solutions Moon, Moss, McGill & Shapiro, P.A.

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Portland, Maine 04112-7250

tel (207) 775-6001

2011 JUN - 4 (207) 755-6407

U.S. DISTRICT PROLIB Moonmoss.com
DISTRICT OF MASS.

June 3, 2004

BY FEDEX

Tony Anastas, Clerk of Court U.S. District Court District of Massachusetts John Joseph Moakley U.S. Courthouse 1 Courthouse Way, Suite 2300 Boston, MA 02210 04 cv 1 1 2 1

Re:

Shaw's Supermarkets, Inc. v. United Food and Commercial Workers Union,

Local 791, AFL-CIO

Dear Mr. Anastas:

Enclosed please find the following documents for filing with the Court in the above-captioned matter:

- 1. Civil Cover Sheet;
- 2. Summary Sheet;
- 3. Complaint of Shaw's Supermarkets, Inc.
- 4. Shaw's Supermarkets, Inc.'s Corporate Disclosure Statement; and
- 5. Check in the amount of \$150.00 for the Complaint filing fee.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely yours

Philip J. Moss

PJM/lm

cc: Warren H. Pyle, Esq.

Eric Nadworny